

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE

DISPATCH NO.: MM-A-1516

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 30 AUGUST 1949

TO: Chief, FEM

FROM: COS, Karlsruhe

SUBJECT: General - Operational
Specific - VLIK Meeting with SIDZIKAUSKAS, BRAZAITIS
and Col. SHOVA. (Antanas)

REF: MM-A-1493

1. In accordance with our previous arrangements, SIDZIKAUSKAS and BRAZAITIS arrived in Munich on Thursday, 25 August, and were billeted at ABACUS 2, as our guests. On the next morning, Col. SHOVA, the proposed successor to Gen. PLECHAVICIUS, was invited to ABACUS 2 for a general conference. Pertinent facts of both conferences are summarized below:

a. Couriers: Since our last meeting, BRAZAITIS completed a trip to Lithuanian DP camps at Mohringen and Bamberg where he personally interviewed the three prospective couriers now under investigation. They are as follows:

- (1) MICKEVICIUS, Kestutis. Currently employed by the Baltic Labor Company at Mohringen.
- (2) STEPANAVICIUS, Antanas. Employed by the Baltic Labor Company at Bamberg.
- (3) KLEVINSKAS, Antanas. Residing at the Lagerdeskaserne, Bamberg.

A name check of the above individuals has been requested. Their biographies will be submitted after the next scheduled meeting.

b. SIDZIKAUSKAS stated that an official VLIK courier dispatched by the underground in Lithuania has been stranded in Warsaw, Poland for the past three months (Ref: MUNI-696). This individual was dispatched overland from Lithuania, was wounded three times by Soviet frontier guards, but nonetheless succeeded in reaching Warsaw. VLIK headquarters received news of his arrival in

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

REGISTRY COPY

MM-A-1516

30 Aug 49

32-6-2-1219

SECRET

MM-A-1516

- 2 -

Warsaw through "diplomatic channels", i.e., the French Embassy, and the French promised to evacuate the courier as promptly as possible. In view of our newly established relationship, SIDZIKAIUSKAS believes that it would be essential for us to facilitate the courier's evacuation directly to the American Zone of Occupation. If this is feasible, SIDZIKAIUSKAS will inform us of the courier's exact location, and direct him to accept orders from the individual appointed by us, by-passing (if, indeed, this is possible) the French entirely. If on the other hand we are unable to evacuate the courier, SIDZIKAIUSKAS will continue to press the French for the courier's evacuation.

c. Other Diplomatic Relationships: This subject has been broached at this time only in the most general terms but we feel that it will have to be discussed in a specific manner in the very near future. VLIK's diplomatic relations are naturally mixed with, VLIK's international standing in foreign affairs, as well as with its intelligence utilization. Apparently they are being put to good use in facilitating VLIK's communications with Warsaw, Moscow, and Lithuania. Of the many references SIDZIKAIUSKAS makes to "diplomatic channels" the indications are that the main channel is the French which includes the use of the French Embassy in Moscow for the transmission of information from Lithuania. SIDZIKAIUSKAS expressed the wish that we, too, may be able to offer an equivalent "diplomatic channel" service. This approach was discouraged and emphasis placed on the development of channels without counting on State Department assistance. At the same time it was agreed that the French, as well as any other diplomatic channels now being utilized by VLIK, should be held and developed with the clear understanding, however, that it is we who are subsidizing the VLIK committee. It is interesting to note that the word "subsidizing", and the inference that "we know who the boss is" was volunteered by SIDZIKAIUSKAS without the case officer's prompting. It is our feeling that our relationship has now progressed far enough to start a more pressing revelation of VLIK's "diplomatic channels".

d. Initial Payment: In accordance with the authorization contained in MGK-W-2574 para 8, the case officer chose an opportune time to turn over to SIDZIKAIUSKAS the sum of \$300.00. While on the subject of couriers and the preparation of certain reports from currently available material, SIDZIKAIUSKAS was about to mention the fact that all these investigations and preparations require a great deal of time and certain expenditures. The case officer chose this moment to present SIDZIKAIUSKAS with the above mentioned amount. We believe that the initial amount was sufficient and created the desired impressive effect. Both SIDZIKAIUSKAS and BRAZAITIS appeared greatly pleased over this "real display of support". It was during this incident that SIDZIKAIUSKAS referred to our "subsidization" and their awareness of it in operational matters. SIDZIKAIUSKAS informed that the \$300.00 should be used to cover initial operational expenses for the purposes of locating, organizing and setting up

③

SECRET

32-6-2-13

SECRET

MCN-A-1516

- 3 -

needed personnel to begin the accumulation and processing of available information and the gathering of additional operational data.

Comment: It is recommended that no accounting of this sum be requested and that it be accepted as the OSO token payment, intended to get the operation started. All future payments, however, will be accounted for and will be based on the budget authorized in MOK-A-2574 para 8. In view of SIDZIKAUSKAS' favorable reaction to the \$300.00 payment, it is also recommended that OPC adopt a "spoon-feeding" formula and does not "turn their heads" by carrying out the proposed \$5,000.00 immediate token payment. (See WASHF 8919)

e. Col. Antanas SHOVA (SOVA). On Friday, 26 August, Col. SHOVA was invited to attend the conference at ABACUS 2. Prior to SHOVA's arrival, SIDZIKAUSKAS informed the undersigned that SHOVA was not au courant of VLIK operational activity, but was a trusted individual of long standing whom they would properly brief on all developments once we agree that he would be a suitable candidate for PLECHAVICIUS' former position. From the point of personality, experience, and ability to inspire others, SHOVA certainly does not come up in stature to old PLECHAVICIUS. We have previously pointed out that PLECHAVICIUS was unique among the Lithuanian circles, and that it was doubtful if an equivalent replacement could ever be found. SHOVA was born in Lithuania on 5 February 1902, and from the earliest age started his formal military education, graduating in 1930 from the Czech General Staff School in Prague, to which he was ordered by the Lithuanian General Staff. Upon returning from Prague, SHOVA served with various armored units until his assignment to the General Staff in 1934, where he served as Chief of the Mobilization and Organization Section. SHOVA remained at his General Staff post after the arrival of the Russians in September, 1940, and served as a Red Army Colonel with the Lithuanian Territorial Corps. In February, 1941 he was demobilized and arrested in March of the same year. In June, 1941, while being transported to a concentration camp inside the USSR, the German advance panicked the Soviet train guards, and SHOVA, together with 60 other Lithuanian officers, were taken out in the woods and "shot". The guards' unsteady aiming gave SHOVA a chance to escape, however, and he made his way back to Lithuania where he became a member of the VLIK underground. After the entrance of the German forces in Lithuania SHOVA received orders in January, 1944, to report to Gen. PLECHAVICIUS' Home Guard Division and he became Chief of the Mobilization and Organization Section on PLECHAVICIUS' staff. On 15 May 1944, PLECHAVICIUS' General Staff was arrested by the Germans, and two days later while they were being transported in a truck, SHOVA escaped and returned to join the underground. As the Russian advance began into Lithuania, SHOVA escaped into Germany where he found employment as a forest worker under the alias PLACATIS^(N). At the end of the war SHOVA was working as a forest worker near Marienbad, and in May, 1945 entered the DP camp at Bamberg. At the DP camps, SHOVA served in various camp administrative positions, including his current one as Emigration Officer at the Garmisch DP Camp. SHOVA was not a

SECRET

MON-1-1946

member of PLECHAVICIUS' OR nets because the camps in which he served were not composed solely of Lithuanians, but those of mixed nationalities. Complete biographical data on Col. SHOVA will be forwarded after our next meeting.

Comment: It is apparent that SHOVA is the only suitable replacement that VLIK can offer for PLECHAVICIUS. There is no doubt that SHOVA has his feet clearly on the ground to a point of embarrassing SIDZIKAUSKAS and BRAZAITIS. When his job, that of developing lines of communication with Lithuania, was explained to him by SIDZIKAUSKAS SHOVA frankly stated that he obviously saw why the "Political Department of VLIK" was interested in developing such lines, but he questioned whether the "politicians" realized all that this simple statement involved. He further stated that he could make no promises until such time as the Executive Committee completely briefed him on just what has been done and what is available to start operations with. After receiving such briefing, SHOVA promised to prepare an estimate of the situation and a proposed plan of operations. Though lacking many of PLECHAVICIUS' qualities, SHOVA appears to be much more practical and business-like, without any pretensions. He accepted the initial investigation work like a military problem which a General Staff officer was expected to work out and report on according to his findings. It was mutually agreed that SHOVA be given a chance as Chief of the Operations Unit. The undersigned then discussed the possibility of still utilizing PLECHAVICIUS, if the scale of operations warrant, as Chief of the unit with SHOVA as his executive officer and Acting Chief in the General's absence. According to SIDZIKAUSKAS, a matter of internal VLIK politics has entered the question of PLECHAVICIUS' future utilization. It appears that the Catholic Democratic Party, represented on the VLIK Executive Committee by Monsignor KRUPAVICIUS and Prof. BRAZAITIS, are opposed to PLECHAVICIUS' future utilization on the grounds that the General represented an extreme rightist point of view which would not be supported by the Lithuanian people, and that PLECHAVICIUS was formerly closely associated with the late President SMETONA's rightist nationalist dictatorship. Naturally if we insisted on the point, PLECHAVICIUS would be given his former command. As far as SIDZIKAUSKAS was concerned, and the other members of the Peasant Party, they had no objections to the General. In view of the above, the PLECHAVICIUS question was left open pending future developments and SHOVA's ability to handle them.

f. Salaries: As of 1 September 1949, we have agreed to pay a regular monthly salary to the following individuals:

- (1) Col. Antonas SHOVA, Chief of the VLIK Operations Section. . . 450. DM per month.
- (2) (Lt.) Julius BUTENAS, General Secretary, Translator, and typist. . . 350. DM per month. Lt. BUTENAS was formerly Gen PLECHAVICIUS' aide de camp and will translate all VLIK reports into the English language.

SECRET

SECRET

MM-A-1516

g. Courier Service: [redacted] was introduced to SIDZIKAUŠKAS as the courier we propose to use between Tuebingen and Munich, when and if the situation warrants. [redacted] will be utilized only in carrying sealed pouches and not be connected with the actual operation in any respect.

2. Two brief reports, one dealing with miscellaneous OB information in the Baltics, and one listing prominent Lithuanian, SSR personalities, have been received and are being processed.

3. Our next scheduled meeting will be held at ABACUS 2 on Thursday, 8 September.

Distributions:

1 - JEM
2 - OOS
2 - MOB

32-6-2-13
SECRET